Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Backward class pupils .. 2994.
Depressed class pupils .. 802.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know what is the number of school-going children?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I want notice.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Then why it was answered 'No'

Mr. President: It does not follow that he has got all the information.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* In view of the large number of children not going to the school does not the Government think it necessary to introduce compulsory education?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government):* No compulsion is necessary. People generally go to school of their own accord. About 72 per cent attend schools.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. വള്ളോൻ: ഡിപ്രസ്സ്ഡ് ക്ലാസ്സ് എന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു് ഏതെല്ലാം സമുദായങ്ങളിൽപെട്ടവരാണെന്നു പറയാമോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. ജെ. ജോജ്ജ്: അധഃകൃതരിൽപെട്ട എല്ലാസമുദായക്കാരും ഉണ്ടാകും, ഏതെല്ലാം സമുദായങ്ങളുണ്ടെന്നു് തിരിച്ചുപറയുവാൻ ഇപ്പോൾ സാധിക്കയില്ല.

UNAIDED CLASSES STARTED IN 1112—GRANT FOR

397. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they had promised during the last Budget Session that grants will be given to all unaided classes started in 1112 or earlier;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are these poor teachers not paid yet;

(*c*) if not, what is the cause for the delay?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Steps are being taken to aid the new classes opened in 1112 as stated in the answer furnished to

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question No. 228 of this session and grant will be disbursed soon. The delay is due to the formalities that have to be gone through to arrive at the actual number of classes that will be eligible for aid, taking into consideration their strength, attendance and qualification of teachers, etc., during the course of their working from Edavam 1112 till now. I understand that several of the schools have already received the aid.

VELIYANAD-THOTTUR ROAD—COMPLETION OF

398. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Will the Government be pleased to state when the proposed road from the Veliyanad school to Thottur is to be completed?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The work is expected to be completed in 1116.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I know what has been done already?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The estimate has been prepared and submitted for sanction.

KOLANCHERI THODU—DEEPENING OF

399. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will the Government be pleased to state whether steps are being taken to connect Mulanthuruthi with the Konathu thodu by deepening the Kolancheri thodu?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The matter is being looked into.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I know whether it has reached any stage?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* A report has been called for from the Assistant Engineer on the approximate cost of the work.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I take it that investigation is going on?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes.

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